## Client's ref.: ND-P0055-US-AP Our ref: 0741-8283us/final/Renee/Steve

## What is claimed is:

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1	<ol> <li>A self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle</li> </ol>
2	plate of an inkjet print head, comprising the steps of:
3	providing a substrate having at least one activated
4	device thereon;
5	forming a first film on the substrate;
6	forming a second film on the first film;
7	defining the second film to form a convex portion
8	corresponding to the activated device, exposing a
9	part of the surface of the first film;
10	forming a third film on the exposed surface of the
11	first film, covering the convex portion;
12	removing the third film on the convex portion; and
13	etching the convex portion and the first film under the

1 2. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle

convex portion to form a via.

- 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 1, wherein
- 3 the substrate is a silicon substrate.
- The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
   plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 1, wherein
- 3 the third film is made of spin-on-glass.
- The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
  - plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 1, wherein
- 3 the third film on the convex portion is removed by etching
- 4 to expose the surface of the convex portion.

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- 5. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
- 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 1, wherein
- 3 the third film on the convex portion is removed by
- 4 photolithography.
- 1 6. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
- 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 1, wherein
- 3 the via is formed by plasma dry etching.
- ${\tt 7.}$  The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
- 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 6, wherein
- 3 the plasma dry etching uses oxygen as the main etching gas.
- 1  $\,\,$  8. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
- 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 1, wherein
- 3 the first film is a polymer film.
- 9. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
- 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 1, wherein
- 3 the second film is a polymer film.
- 1 10. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
- 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 1, wherein
- 3 the activated device is a thin-film heater.
- 1 11. A self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
- 2 plate of an inkjet print head, comprising the steps of:
- 3 providing a silicon substrate having at least one
- 4 activated device thereon;
- 5 forming a first film on the substrate;
- 6 forming a second film on the first film;

- 7 defining the second film to form a convex portion corresponding to the activated device, exposing a 8 9 part of the surface of the first film; forming a spin-on-glass film on the exposed surface of 10 the first film, covering the convex portion; 11 12 removing the spin-on-glass film on the convex portion; 13 and 14 etching the convex portion and the first film under the 15 convex portion to form a via.
  - 1 12. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 11, 3 wherein the spin-on-glass film on the convex portion is 4 removed by etching to expose the surface of the convex 5 portion.
  - 1 13. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 11, 3 wherein the spin-on-glass film on the convex portion is 4 removed by photolithography.
  - 1 14. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 11, 3 wherein the via is formed by plasma dry etching.
  - 1 15. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 14, 3 wherein the plasma dry etching uses oxygen as the main 4 etching gas.

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- 1 16. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
- 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 11,
- 3 wherein the first film is a polymer film.
- 1 17. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
- 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 11,
- 3 wherein the second film is a polymer film.
- 1 18. The self-aligned fabrication process for a nozzle
- 2 plate of an inkjet print head as claimed in claim 11,
- 3 wherein the activated device is a thin-film heater.